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# PRESS RELEASE

**Police Department**  
**SERGIO G. DIAZ**  
**Chief of Police**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 1, 2019

### **CONTACT:**

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## **SUSPECT ARRESTED IN MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT THEFT**

RIVERSIDE, CA – Last year in May 2018, staff at Riverside Community Hospital, located in the 4400 block of Magnolia Avenue, noticed discrepancies with their need to purchase a specific medical supply that is used during surgeries. An audit was conducted and hospital staff found that their purchases for medical staples exceeded the number of surgeries that had occurred over the past three years. Detectives began a lengthy investigation, and in December 2018 and with the assistance of hospital administrators, were able to identify a possible suspect.

On January 16, 2019, a search warrant was served in the 11200 block of Showdown Lane in Moreno Valley during which stolen medical staples and additional evidence were recovered. Detectives continued working with hospital staff and earlier yesterday on Thursday, January 31, 2019, 38-year-old Moreno Valley resident Oscar Bernal was arrested at his home. He was later booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center for multiple counts of grand theft and embezzlement. He is currently being held on \$2,942,000 bail. Mr. Bernal was a hospital employee and believed to



have stolen over \$2.9 million dollars' worth of medical staples over the course of three years.

"The Riverside Police Department has been very responsive since the time we reported this matter. We especially appreciate their diligent effort and quick response in their investigation of this individual," says Cherie Crutcher, Spokeswoman for Riverside Community Hospital.

Detectives are requesting anyone with information regarding this investigation to contact Detective Ron Knoffloch at (951) 826-8718 or [rknoffloch@riversideca.gov](mailto:rknoffloch@riversideca.gov).

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